REMARKS

This is in response to the Advisory Action mailed January 27, 2004. Applicant respectfully traverses and request reconsideration.

Claims 1-23 and 25-33

Applicant respectfully submits, for the Examiner's consideration, Amended claims 1, 12, 28 and 33. These claims have been amended to provide further distinction to the inherently claimed limitation of the graphics pipelines being in parallel. For example, claims 1 and 12 include the limitation that "wherein the video graphics pipelines process image layers in parallel." As noted in, among other places, FIG. 2, the pipelines 12, 16 and 18 operate to generate the image layer (e.g. processed graphics data 43, 45) in parallel and the data is provided to the blending module 20 in parallel.

Applicant submits that the prior art of record fails to disclose, teach or suggest of a video graphics module having the claims limitations of claims 1-23 and 25-33. The primary prior art reference Blinn, as discussed in previous responses, does not disclose parallel processing of image layers, but generates sprites based on input information and then blends the sprites and other surfaces based on a pixel by pixel generation, such as denoted regions (see col. 6, lines 22-46). Moreover, Blinn using an existing fog filter to generate the blended output and fails to parallel process the image layers but instead uses a static filtering fog layer (see col. 7, lines 9-17 and col. 8, lines 60-66).

Claims 7-8 and 18-19

In the advisory action, the Examiner indicates the maintenance of the rejection of claims 7-8 and 18-19 under 35 USC §112, P2. Applicants submit confusion regarding this rejection as the Examiner has not indicated clarification regarding the present rejection.

In the After Final response, Applicant states:

Dependent Claims 7 and 18

The Office Action rejects the limitation "blending and alpha values" in claims 7 and 18. The Office Action states that Fig. 1 does not show the transparency, and this at odds with "alpha blending," which is defined as the combining a transparent source color with a translucent destination color.

Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is improper and request its withdraw. Applicants submit that the scope of each of the claims is definite and that the claim as written is clear to a hypothetical person possessing the ordinary level of skill in the field. Applicants submit that the embodiment shown in Fig. 1, that is allegedly absent a representation showing specific alpha blending, does not render such claims indefinite, as it is the Application as a whole, not any particular figure, which provides the disclosure that enables the claims therein. Applicants further submit that the Figs. of an application need not illustrate all embodiments in order to claim all such embodiments. Applicants respectfully submit that given the disclosure as a whole, that the claims are clear to one of ordinary skill in the art.

<u>*Dependent Claims 8 and 19*</u>

The Office Action rejects the limitation "a first input for receiving the intermediate blended image; a second input for receiving the foremost image layer" in claims 8 and 19. The Office Action states that Fig. 1 does not show the transparency, and this at odds with "alpha blending," which is defined as the combining a transparent source color with a translucent destination color.

Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is improper and request its withdraw. Applicants submit that the scope of each of the claims is definite and that the claim as written is clear to a hypothetical person possessing the ordinary level of skill in the field. Applicants submit that simply because the claim does not indicate if a first or second input correspond to a series and/or parallel pipeline, does not render such claims indefinite. Applicants respectfully submit that given the disclosure as a whole, that the claims are clear to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Finally, to the extent that any of the 112 rejections are maintained, Applicants request that an explanation be included to further explain whether the rejection is based on indefiniteness or on the failure to claim what applicants regard as the invention. (See MPEP 2171).

In the advisory action, the Examiner states : "The rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is still maintained."

Applicants submit the Examiner has not provided the requisite support for the present rejection. Among other things, claims 7 and 18 do not recite the limitation "blending and alpha values." For example, claim 7 claims:

7. (Original) The video graphics module of claim 6, wherein the first mixing module further comprises:

a first input for receiving one of the at least two of the corresponding image layers;

a second input for receiving another one of the at least two of the corresponding image layers:

a blending module operably coupled to blend the at least two of the corresponding image layers based on an alpha calculation using a specified alpha value; and

an alpha value calculation module operably coupled to the blending module, wherein the alpha value calculation module generates the specified alpha valued based on at least one of: a global alpha value, a per pixel value associated with at least one of the at least two of the corresponding image layers, and a blending mode selection.

Regarding claim 8, Applicant submits the Examiner's statement is improper because the limitation of the first input receiving an intermediate blended image and the second input receiving a foremost image layer is not indefinite based on whether the inputs are in parallel. It is submitted that the claimed limitations distinctly claim the present invention absent definition of data flow relationship. As noted in previous responses, it is incumbent upon the Examiner to provide clarification regarding this matter as the specification supports the limitations as claimed.

Therefore, should the Examiner maintain the present rejection, Applicant respectfully requests clarification in support of the present rejection. In the alternative and in view of the amendments to claims 1 and 12 respectively, it is submitted that data flow configuration is clearly defined and the claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

By:
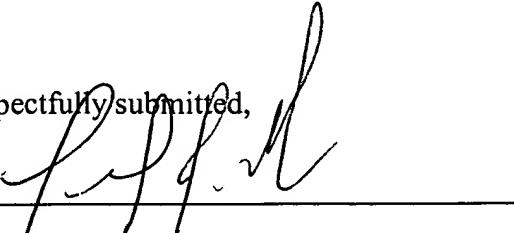
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